



HSIN is **CRUCIAL TOOL** for

FUSION CENTER

during Iowa State Fair



Real-time information sharing on HSIN between State and Local law enforcement and event staff to maintain safety and security of more than 1,000,000 attendees

Organization

Iowa Division of
Intelligence and
Fusion Center

Sector

Law Enforcement
and Intelligence
& Analysis

Dates

August 8 - 18, 2013



CASE STUDY

HSIN IS CRUCIAL TOOL FOR FUSION CENTER DURING IOWA STATE FAIR

Easy-to-Use Tool for Information Sharing

The State Fair is the single largest event in the state of Iowa. “Starting three days before the Fair and throughout the entire event, HSIN allowed information sharing between intelligence analysts and agents, field personnel, state patrol troopers on the ground, and state fair board officials,” said Justin Parker, a Senior Criminal Intelligence Analyst with the Iowa Division of Intelligence and Fusion Center. “HSIN helped us cover all angles from the smallest to the most sensitive, with real-time visibility.”

Parker, a member of the HSIN State & Local Intelligence Community (SLIC) Executive Board, uses HSIN daily and said he regularly has at least 20 trusted partners in the Iowa intelligence community on HSIN. “We have about 16 analysts, a dozen field agents, and about two dozen other operational users in total using HSIN. The system is so easy to use that most people just learn it on the fly. You don’t have to be a computer whiz to reap the benefits of HSIN right away.”

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Iowa Division of Intelligence and Fusion Center

The benefits of HSIN, explained Parker, include using a standing analytic room, to communicate day-to-day business, and two operational rooms, for intelligence and operations management. These coordination spaces aid in the management of information requests and collaborating with other partners, sharing ideas with trusted coworkers and connecting with state and local law enforcement. “HSIN gives us situational awareness on breaking news as well as critical events,” said Parker. “It happens right here in our office, on the desktop and through our mobile devices. No email needed. It’s instant visibility for everyone.”

Steady State and Large Scale Investigations

Instant visibility is just one of the reasons the Iowa Fusion Center uses HSIN for both high- and low-profile cases. “We’re trying to capitalize on the capability of HSIN so we can use it in both routine and pressure situations,” explained Parker. “We log in as soon as we start work and interact on HSIN until we leave. It is a crucial tool in doing our job. We don’t go a day without using it.” Parker estimates his team sends between 30–50 messages a day through HSIN.

Most recently, the Iowa Fusion Center used HSIN in an inmate-escape/hostage situation and a double abduction case. “If you use HSIN every day, when an incident occurs, you’ll be ready to use it to its full potential,” advised Parker. If you have questions or would like more information about how Parker and his team use HSIN, you may email Justin Parker (justin.parker@iowa.gov) or contact HSIN.Outreach@hq.dhs.gov.

For more information:
HSIN.Outreach@hq.dhs.gov

